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KOREAN CONFRONTATION CONTINUES UNRESOLVED

The talks between North Korean and US representatives at Panmunjom appear to have made no progress toward resolving the confrontation over the <u>Pueblo</u> incident.

Pyongyang is clearly intent on prolonging tensions by dragging out negotiations. North Korean propaganda has concentrated on publicizing "confessions" by the Pueblo's crew. A lengthening parade of officers and crewmen al-

legedly have expressed guilt and "apologized" for the ship's intrusion into North Korean waters.

The South Korean initial dissatisfaction over US handling of the Pueblo incident soon broadened

into widespread pub-

iic resentment.

TOP SECRET

Page 6

WEEKLY REVIEW

9 Feb 68

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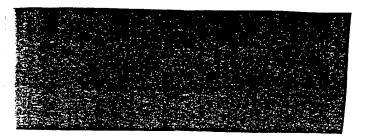
prass complained that the Panmunjom talks undermined South Korean sovereignsy and elevated the status of the North Rorean regime. Some politicians urged diplomatic pressure to stop the "sadret" calks and demanded unilateral retaliatory action against the Communist Morth. The Mational Assembly unanimously passed a resolution protesting US - North Korean talks without South Korean participation.

Students have demonstrated at the US Embassy in Seoul, in Pusan, and near the Demilitarized Zone



Thus, after officially protesting on 5 February, the government moved to damp down public indignation.

A high-level spokesman assured press representatives on 6 February that President Pak has in fact been fully informed on the talks and that the assassination attempt against him had been discussed at one meeting. The next day while speaking to the National Assembly, the foreign minister conceded that discussion of the <u>Pueblo</u> crewmen's release might be given priority "from a humanitarian point of view." This change in official position has been reflected in the shift of the Seoul press to a more moderate stance.



Soviet military readtion to Korean prisis is dontúnujny on a low level. As US naval forces moved into the Sea of Japan, they were shadowed by two Soviet destroyers

task forde of five more Soviet destroyers was deployed in the Sea of Japan early this week in an afterthe-fact show of Torce. Sowiet naval aircraft have conducted several reconnaissance missions -- including overflights--against the US task force.

Soviet propaganda is playing the <u>Pueblo</u> incident in low key and Soviet officials have for the most part been maintaining that the Pueblo intruded into territorial waters. Moscow continues to emphasite that direct US - North Korean meetings offer the best chance for resolving the The most authorizative public statement on the crisis, a Prayda "Observer" article on 4 February, concluded by advising the US that if it really desired a solution it should respect Morth Korea's sovereignty and stop "threatening" the Koreans.

Since China's official statement of support on 28 January, Peking propaganda has given only sparse and low-lavel coverage to the Pueblo